



Gloucestershire Constabulary
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Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_1050

E-mail: FOI

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Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 25/06/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 25_1050

On 30/10/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Can you provide 100 random samples from stop and search incident logs (Which you must record) between 1st January 2024 and 1st January 2025 with the following information? To ensure fairness, I request that the 100 incidents be randomly selected (e.g. by applying a random number generator across the dataset of all incidents in the timeframe). Please record what random sample method you used.

For each one of the samples, can you please provide the following:

1. Which random number log was it?
 2. Identify whether it was public-initiated or Police-initiated (Definition below).
 3. 3a. If the search was public-led, record the caller's description of the suspect (including sex, ethnicity, age, and where recorded).
 - 3b. Record the officer's description of the person being searched (including sex, ethnicity, age, and where recorded).
- (Complete both if information is provided by both the public and the officer.)

4. Time/date of the search

5.

Please see the example table format below to illustrate the type of information I am requesting. I am not asking you to follow this exact layout - it is only a mock example to show the type of data I am seeking.

The bold text (prior to the colon) indicates the headings for each column.

Example one:

Date/Time: 05/03/2023, 0930 Hours

Random number log: 432

Police or public-led: Police

Description of person search (IC code, sex and age): IC1, Male, 24 If public-led, the initial description from the public/caller (IC code, sex and age): N/A Area code: B1

Example Two:

Date/Time: 05/03/2023, 1420 Hours

Random number log: 10036

Police or public-led: Public

Description of person search (IC code, sex and age): IC2, Female, 32 If public-led, the initial description from the public/caller (IC code, sex and age): IC2, Female, in their 30s Area code: A1

Definitions and Supporting Information

Public-initiated is an event and/or encounter initiated or guided directly by external actors (Public). For example, the initial grounds, location or direction came from outside the police service, through calls, reports or information provided by members of the public, leading to a police encounter.

Police-initiated is defined in this study as events and/or encounters initiated solely by the individual officers, or suspicious by the police organisation via intelligence-led or operational practices-for example, individual officers on proactive patrol, intelligence-led operation or professional judgment.

When it was "where recorded" to ensure it's kept, I am referring to the location area code your individual service gives it.

Cost and Feasibility

I have deliberately limited my request to 100 incidents to fit comfortably within the cost threshold. This allows for an estimated 5 minutes per log to read and abstract the information, which equates to under 9 hours of staff time. At £25 per hour, this would total approximately £225, well below the statutory cost threshold of £450.

This breakdown will allow me to analyse the role of public influence in the initiation and outcomes of stop and search encounters.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary may hold some relevant information.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Gloucestershire Constabulary, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states the fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

With regard to the disclosure of breaking down the stop search figures by time and day, location then by description, the following exemption applies:

Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) applies to third party personal data. This would not be released under the Freedom of Information Act unless there is a strong public interest. The disclosure of any information which could lead to the identification of an individual would breach the Data

Protection Principles contained within the Data Protection Act 2018, namely the first principle which states that personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals

This exemption is absolute and class based therefore I am not required to apply either the public interest test or harm test in disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this part of your request.

Gloucestershire Constabulary do not currently have access to a program that would be able to randomise such data within our workflow, nor do we record if the search was public or police initiated within the stop search form.

If you are not satisfied with this response or any actions taken in dealing with your request, you have the right to ask that we review your case under our internal procedure. Please note that a request for an internal review must be made within 20 working days of the response to your original request.

If you decide to request that such a review is undertaken and following this process you are still unsatisfied, you then have the right to direct your complaint to the Information Commissioner for consideration.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following means:

Website - <https://ico.org.uk/>

Call their helpline - 0303 123 1113

Email - casework@ico.org.uk

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary